

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 99

By Faulk

A RESOLUTION to recognize Thomas H. Russell on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Thomas H. Russell is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for six years as a member of the Hawkins County Election Commission; and

WHEREAS, after his years of distinguished service with the Election Commission, Mr. Russell chose to submit his resignation on February 6, 2009, thereby beginning a much-deserved retirement after a lifetime as a public servant; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Clinch High School, Mr. Russell continued his education at East Tennessee State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree from that institution; and

WHEREAS, driven by his deep and abiding faith in education, Mr. Russell took his own formal education even further at Union College, where he completed a Masters +45 degree; and

WHEREAS, highly educated and committed to the education of Tennessee's youth, Thomas Russell contributed forty-two years to the schools of Hawkins County; he held a number of positions in the system, from teacher to principal to Attendance Supervisor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Russell proved his formidable talent as a classroom teacher, achieving Level Three on the Tennessee Career Ladder; and

WHEREAS, outside the classroom, his estimable leadership abilities served him well in his capacities as Chairman of the East Tennessee Supervisor's Association and Chairman of the Attendance Supervisor's Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, with his experience as an educator and administrator, Mr. Russell became a valued member of the Hawkins County Board of Education, from which he retired in 2001; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure with the Board, he became the Chief Teacher Contract Negotiator, served as the Coordinator of the Summer Youth Program, and sat on a number committees; and

WHEREAS, beyond his duties as a public servant, Mr. Russell has dedicated much of his time and energy to his farm near Pressmen's Home, where he raises Charolais cattle; and

WHEREAS, he is also an active member of the Hickory Cove Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Russell will have more time now with his beloved wife, Lucy; their admirable marriage has produced two children, David and Sherry; and

WHEREAS, his grandchildren, John, Kathlyn, and Cole, and his great-grandchild, Madison, will also appreciate having more time to spend with Mr. Russell; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Russell exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Russell has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Thomas H. Russell our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.